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# SOME EXOTIC ACTIONS OF FINITE GROUPS ON SMOOTH 4-MANIFOLDS

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## Abstract

Using  $G$ -monopole invariants, we produce infinitely many exotic non-free actions of  $\mathbb{Z}_k \oplus H$  on some connected sums of finite number of  $S^2 \times S^2$ ,  $\mathbb{C}P_2$ ,  $\overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2$ , and  $K3$  surfaces, where  $k \geq 2$ , and  $H$  is any nontrivial finite group acting freely on  $S^3$ .

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to present exotic, i.e.  $C^0$ -equivalent but smoothly inequivalent smooth actions of finite groups on some smooth 4-manifolds. We say that two smooth group actions  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  on a smooth manifold  $M$  is  $C^m$ -equivalent for  $m = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$ , if there exists a  $C^m$ -homeomorphism  $f: M \rightarrow M$  such that

$$G_1 = f \circ G_2 \circ f^{-1}.$$

Such exotic smooth actions of finite groups on smooth 4-manifolds have been found abundantly, for e.g., [7, 4, 9, 2, 10, 22, 8]. We showed that for any nontrivial finite group  $G$  there exists a smooth closed 4-manifold with infinitely many free  $G$ -actions which are all  $C^0$ -equivalent but mutually smoothly inequivalent. And Fintushel, Stern, and Sunukjian constructed infinite families of exotic actions of finite cyclic groups on smooth closed 4-manifolds with nontrivial Seiberg–Witten invariant. All these examples are either free or cyclic actions.

In this article we use  $G$ -monopole invariants to detect infinitely many non-free non-cyclic exotic group actions on certain connected sums of 4-manifolds with vanishing Seiberg–Witten invariant. For example, for  $k \geq 2$  and any nontrivial finite group  $H$  acting freely on  $S^3$ , there exist infinitely many exotic non-free actions of  $\mathbb{Z}_k \oplus H$  on some connected sums of finite numbers of  $S^2 \times S^2$ ,  $\mathbb{C}P_2$ ,  $\overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2$ , and  $K3$  surfaces.

## 2. Preliminaries on $G$ -monopole invariant

Let  $M$  be a smooth closed oriented 4-manifold. Suppose that a finite group  $G$  acts on  $M$  smoothly preserving the orientation, and this action lifts to an action on a  $\text{Spin}^c$  structure  $\mathfrak{s}$  of  $M$ . For a  $G$ -invariant Riemannian metric and  $G$ -invariant perturbation  $\varepsilon$ ,

we consider a  $G$ -monopole moduli space  $\mathfrak{X}$  defined as the set of  $G$ -invariant solutions  $(A, \Phi)$  of (perturbed) Seiberg–Witten equations

$$D_A \Phi = 0, \quad F_A^+ = \Phi \otimes \Phi^* - \frac{|\Phi|^2}{2} \text{Id} + \varepsilon$$

modulo the group  $\mathcal{G}^G = \text{Map}(M, S^1)^G$  of  $G$ -invariant gauge transformations. As shown in [19, 20],  $\mathfrak{X}$  for a generic  $\varepsilon$  is a smooth compact orientable finite-dimensional manifold, if the dimension  $b_2^+(M)^G$  of the space of  $G$ -invariant self-dual harmonic 2-forms on  $M$  is bigger than 0. In fact, it is a subset of the ordinary Seiberg–Witten moduli space.

The intersection theory on  $\mathfrak{X}$  using the universal cohomology classes of the ordinary Seiberg–Witten moduli space gives various  $G$ -monopole invariants defined first by Y. Ruan [17]. Considering gauge equivalence classes of  $G$ -invariant solutions under a based  $G$ -invariant gauge transformation group  $\mathcal{G}_o^G = \{g \in \mathcal{G}^G \mid g(o) = 1\}$  for a fixed base point  $o \in M$ , we get a based  $G$ -monopole moduli space which is the principal  $S^1$ -bundle over  $\mathfrak{X}$  induced by  $\mathcal{G}^G/\mathcal{G}_o^G$  action. Let's denote its first Chern class by  $\mu$ , which is independent of choice of the base point by the connectedness of  $M$ . We define a  $G$ -monopole invariant  $SW_{M,\mathfrak{s}}^G$  as  $\langle \mu^{(\dim \mathfrak{X})/2}, [\mathfrak{X}] \rangle$ . (When  $\dim \mathfrak{X}$  is odd,  $SW_{M,\mathfrak{s}}^G$  is just set to be 0.)

As in the ordinary case,  $SW_{M,\mathfrak{s}}^G$  is independent of the choice of a  $G$ -invariant metric and a  $G$ -invariant perturbation  $\varepsilon$ , if  $b_2^+(M)^G > 1$ . Thus we get a (smooth) topological invariant of a  $G$ -manifold  $M$  generalizing the ordinary Seiberg–Witten invariant  $SW_{M,\mathfrak{s}}$ , which is now  $SW_{M,\mathfrak{s}}^{\{1\}}$  for the trivial group  $\{1\}$ . Also generalizing the Seiberg–Witten polynomial  $SW_M$  of  $M$ , the  $G$ -monopole polynomial of  $M$  is defined as

$$W_M^G SW_M^G := \sum_{\mathfrak{s}} SW_{M,\mathfrak{s}}^G PD(c_1(\mathfrak{s})) \in \mathbb{Z}[H_2(M; \mathbb{Z})^G],$$

where the summation is over the set of all  $G$ -equivariant  $\text{Spin}^c$  structures. Note that  $G$ -monopole invariants may change when a homotopically different lift of the  $G$ -action to the  $\text{Spin}^c$  structure is chosen. In a previous paper, we computed some examples of  $G$ -monopole invariants, which will be used as an essential tool in this paper:

**Theorem 2.1** ([20]). *Let  $M$  and  $N$  be smooth closed oriented connected 4-manifolds satisfying  $b_2^+(M) > 1$  and  $b_2^+(N) = 0$ , and  $\bar{M}_k$  for any  $k \geq 2$  be the connected sum  $M \# \cdots \# M \# N$  where there are  $k$  summands of  $M$ .*

*Suppose that a finite group  $G$  with  $|G| = k$  acts effectively on  $N$  in a smooth orientation-preserving way such that it is free or has at least one fixed point, and that  $N$  admits a Riemannian metric of positive scalar curvature invariant under the  $G$ -action and a  $G$ -equivariant  $\text{Spin}^c$  structure  $\mathfrak{s}_N$  with  $c_1^2(\mathfrak{s}_N) = -b_2(N)$ .*

*Define a  $G$ -action on  $\bar{M}_k$  induced from that of  $N$  permuting the  $k$  summands of  $M$  glued along a free orbit in  $N$ , and let  $\bar{\mathfrak{s}}$  be the  $\text{Spin}^c$  structure on  $\bar{M}_k$  obtained by*

gluing  $\mathfrak{s}_N$  and a  $\text{Spin}^c$  structure  $\mathfrak{s}$  of  $M$ .

Then for any  $G$ -action on  $\bar{\mathfrak{s}}$  covering the above  $G$ -action on  $\bar{M}_k$ ,

$$SW_{\bar{M}_k, \bar{\mathfrak{s}}}^G \equiv SW_{M, \mathfrak{s}} \pmod{2},$$

if the dimension  $b_1(N)^G$  of the vector space consisting of  $G$ -invariant elements of  $H_1(N; \mathbb{R})$  is zero.

Note that if a smooth closed manifold  $X$  has a smooth effective action of a compact Lie group  $G$ , then the fixed-point set  $X^g$  under  $g \in G$  is either empty or an embedded submanifold each component of which has positive codimension. Thus  $N$  in the above theorem always has a free orbit under  $G$ . When  $b_1(N)^G \neq 0$ , we also obtained a mod 2 equality relating those two invariants, but we omit it here for simplicity. The examples of such  $N$  with  $G = \mathbb{Z}_k$  regardless of  $b_1(N)^{\mathbb{Z}_k}$  are as follows:

**Theorem 2.2** ([20]). *Let  $X$  be one of*

$$S^4, \quad \overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2, \quad S^1 \times (L_1 \# \cdots \# L_n), \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{S^1 \times L}$$

where each  $L_i$  and  $L$  are quotients of  $S^3$  by free actions of finite groups, and  $\widehat{S^1 \times L}$  is the manifold obtained from the surgery on  $S^1 \times L$  along an  $S^1 \times \{pt\}$ .

Then for any integer  $l \geq 0$  and any smooth closed oriented 4-manifold  $Z$  with  $b_2^+(Z) = 0$  admitting a metric of positive scalar curvature,

$$X \# klZ$$

satisfies the properties of  $N$  in Theorem 2.1 with  $G = \mathbb{Z}_k$ , where the  $\text{Spin}^c$  structure of  $X \# klZ$  is given by gluing any  $\text{Spin}^c$  structure  $\mathfrak{s}_X$  on  $X$  and any  $\text{Spin}^c$  structure  $\mathfrak{s}_Z$  on  $Z$  satisfying  $c_1^2(\mathfrak{s}_X) = -b_2(X)$  and  $c_1^2(\mathfrak{s}_Z) = -b_2(Z)$  respectively.

### 3. Exotic group actions

Following [12], we say that a simply connected 4-manifold *dissolves* if it is diffeomorphic to either

$$n\mathbb{C}P_2 \# m\overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2$$

or

$$\pm(n(S^2 \times S^2) \# mK3)$$

for some  $n, m \geq 0$  according to its homeomorphism type. We also use the term mod 2 basic class to mean the first Chern class of a  $\text{Spin}^c$  structure with nonzero mod 2 Seiberg–Witten invariant.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $M$  be a smooth closed oriented connected 4-manifold and  $\{M_i \mid i \in \mathfrak{I}\}$  be a family of smooth 4-manifolds such that every  $M_i$  is homeomorphic to  $M$  and the numbers of mod 2 basic classes of  $M_i$ 's are all mutually different, but each  $M_i \# l_i(S^2 \times S^2)$  is diffeomorphic to  $M \# l_i(S^2 \times S^2)$  for an integer  $l_i \geq 1$ .*

*If  $l_{\max} := \sup_{i \in \mathfrak{I}} l_i < \infty$ , then for any integers  $k \geq 2$  and  $l \geq l_{\max} + 1$ ,*

$$klM \# (l-1)(S^2 \times S^2)$$

*admits an  $\mathfrak{I}$ -family of topologically equivalent but smoothly distinct non-free actions of  $\mathbb{Z}_k \oplus H$  where  $H$  is any group of order  $l$  acting freely on  $S^3$ .*

*Proof.* Think of  $klM \# (l-1)(S^2 \times S^2)$  as

$$klM_i \# (l-1)(S^2 \times S^2),$$

and our  $H$  action is defined as the deck transformation map of the  $l$ -fold covering map onto

$$\bar{M}_{i,k} := kM_i \# \widehat{S^1 \times L}$$

where  $\widehat{S^1 \times L}$  for  $L = S^3/H$  is defined as in Theorem 2.2. To define a  $\mathbb{Z}_k$ -action, note that  $\bar{M}_{i,k}$  has a  $\mathbb{Z}_k$ -action coming from the  $\mathbb{Z}_k$ -action of  $\widehat{S^1 \times L}$  defined in Theorem 2.2, which is basically a rotation along the  $S^1$ -direction. This  $\mathbb{Z}_k$  action is obviously lifted to the above  $l$ -fold cover, and it commutes with the above defined  $H$  action. Thus we have an  $\mathfrak{I}$ -family of  $\mathbb{Z}_k \oplus H$  actions on  $klM \# (l-1)(S^2 \times S^2)$ , which are all topologically equivalent by using the homeomorphism between each  $M_i$  and  $M$ .

Recall from Theorem 2.2 and its proof in [20] that all the  $\text{Spin}^c$  structures on a spin manifold  $\widehat{S^1 \times L}$  are  $\mathbb{Z}_k$ -equivariant with  $c_1^2 = -b_2(\widehat{S^1 \times L}) = 0$ , and hence  $\mathbb{Z}_k$ -equivariant  $\text{Spin}^c$  structures on  $\bar{M}_{i,k}$  are parametrized by

$$H_2(\bar{M}_{i,k}; \mathbb{Z})^{\mathbb{Z}_k} \cong H_2(M_i; \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H_2(\widehat{S^1 \times L}; \mathbb{Z}).$$

By Theorem 2.1 and the fact that  $b_1(\widehat{S^1 \times L}) = 0$ , for any  $\text{Spin}^c$  structure  $\mathfrak{s}_i$  on  $M_i$ ,

$$SW_{\bar{M}_{i,k}, \tilde{\mathfrak{s}}_i}^{\mathbb{Z}_k} \equiv SW_{M_i, \mathfrak{s}_i} \pmod{2},$$

and hence

$$SW_{\bar{M}_{i,k}}^{\mathbb{Z}_k} \equiv SW_{M_i} \sum_{[\alpha] \in H_2(\widehat{S^1 \times L}; \mathbb{Z})} [\alpha]$$

modulo 2. Therefore  $SW_{\bar{M}_{i,k}}^{\mathbb{Z}_k} \pmod{2}$  for all  $i$  have mutually different numbers of monomials, and hence the  $\mathfrak{I}$ -family of  $\mathbb{Z}_k \oplus H$  actions on  $klM \# (l-1)(S^2 \times S^2)$  cannot be smoothly equivalent, completing the proof.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.** *Let  $H$  be a finite group of order  $l \geq 2$  acting freely on  $S^3$ . For any  $k \geq 2$ , there exists an infinite family of topologically equivalent but smoothly distinct non-free actions of  $\mathbb{Z}_k \oplus H$  on*

$$\begin{aligned} & (klm + l - 1)(S^2 \times S^2), \\ & (kl(n - 1) + l - 1)(S^2 \times S^2) \# klnK3, \\ & (kl(2n' - 1) + l - 1)\mathbb{C}P_2 \# (kl(10n' + m' - 1) + l - 1)\overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2 \end{aligned}$$

for infinitely many  $m$ , and any  $m' \geq 1$ ,  $n, n' \geq 2$ .

*Proof.* By the result of B. Hanke, D. Kotschick, and J. Wehrheim [13],  $m(S^2 \times S^2)$  for infinitely many  $m$  has the property of  $M$  in the above theorem with each  $l_i = 1$  and  $|\mathcal{J}| = \infty$ . The different smooth structures of their examples are constructed by fiber-summing a logarithmic transform of  $E(2n)$  and a certain symplectic 4-manifold along a symplectically embedded torus, and different numbers of mod 2 basic classes are due to those different logarithmic transformations. Indeed the Seiberg–Witten polynomial of the multiplicity  $r$  logarithmic transform of  $E(2n)$  is given by

$$([T]^r - [T]^{-r})^{2n-2}([T]^{r-1} + [T]^{r-3} + \cdots + [T]^{1-r})$$

whose number of terms with coefficients mod 2 can be made arbitrarily large by taking  $r$  sufficiently large, and the fiber sum with the other symplectic 4-manifold is performed on a fiber in an  $N(2)$  disjoint from the Gompf nucleus  $N(2n)$  where the log transform is performed so that all these mod 2 basic classes survive the fiber-summing by the gluing formula of C. Taubes [21]. Therefore  $(klm + l - 1)(S^2 \times S^2)$  has desired actions by the above theorem.

For the second example, we use a well-known fact that  $E(n)$  for  $n \geq 2$  also has the above properties of  $M$  in the above theorem with each  $l_i = 1$ , where its exotica  $M_i$ 's are  $E(n)_K$  for a knot  $K \subset S^3$  by the Fintushel–Stern knot surgery. Recall the theorem by S. Akbulut [1] and D. Auckly [3] which says that for any smooth closed simply-connected  $X$  with an embedded torus  $T$  such that  $T \cdot T = 0$  and  $\pi_1(X - T) = 0$ , a knot-surgered manifold  $X_K$  along  $T$  via a knot  $K$  satisfies

$$X_K \# (S^2 \times S^2) = X \# (S^2 \times S^2).$$

And from the formula

$$SW_{E(n)_K} = \Delta_K([T]^2)([T] - [T]^{-1})^{n-2}$$

where  $\Delta_K$  is the symmetrized Alexander polynomial of  $K$ , one can easily see that the number of mod 2 basic classes of  $E(n)_K$  can be made arbitrarily large by choosing  $K$

appropriately. (For example, take  $K$  with

$$\Delta_K(t) = 1 + \sum_{j=1}^{2d} (-1)^j (t^{jn} + t^{-jn})$$

for sufficiently large  $d$ .) Therefore

$$klE(2n) \# (l-1)(S^2 \times S^2) = kl n K3 \# (kl(n-1) + l-1)S^2 \times S^2$$

has desired actions, where we used the fact that  $S \# (S^2 \times S^2)$  dissolves for any smooth closed simply-connected elliptic surface  $S$  by the work of R. Mandelbaum [14] and R. Gompf [11].

For the third example, one can take  $M$  to be  $E(n') \# m' \overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2$  for  $n' \geq 2$ ,  $m' \geq 1$ , where its exotica  $M_i$ 's are  $E(n')_K \# m' \overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2$  for a knot  $K \subset S^3$ , because

$$\begin{aligned} SW_{E(n')_K \# m' \overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2} &= SW_{(E(n') \# m' \overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2)_K} \\ &= \Delta_K([T]^2)([T] - [T]^{-1})^{n'-2} \prod_{i=1}^{m'} ([E_i] + [E_i]^{-1}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $E_i$ 's denote the exceptional divisors, and we used the fact that  $E(n')$  is of simple type. Since  $E(n') \# \overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2$  for any  $n'$  is non-spin,

$$kl(E(n') \# m' \overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2) \# (l-1)(S^2 \times S^2) = kl(E(n') \# m' \overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2) \# (l-1)(\mathbb{C}P_2 \# \overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2),$$

and it dissolves into the connected sum of  $\mathbb{C}P_2$ 's and  $\overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2$ 's, using the dissolution ([14, 11]) of  $E(n') \# \mathbb{C}P_2$  into  $2n' \mathbb{C}P_2 \# (10n' - 1) \overline{\mathbb{C}P}_2$ .  $\square$

REMARK. For other combinations of  $K3$  surfaces and  $(S^2 \times S^2)$ 's in the above corollary, one can use B. Hanke, D. Kotschick, and J. Wehrheim's other examples in [13]. One can also construct many other such examples of  $M$  with infinitely many exotica which become diffeomorphic after one stabilization by using the knot surgery.

Any finite group acting freely on  $S^3$  is in fact a subgroup of  $SO(4)$  by the well-known result of G. Perelman ([15, 16]), and Theorem 3.1 and Corollary 3.2 can be generalized a little further. (See [18].)

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